



Van Buren County  
Sheriff's Office



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**FEDERAL CHARGES AND SEIZURES IN SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN**  
**HEROIN AND COCAINE INVESTIGATION**

**KALAMAZOO, Mich.-** A joint investigation by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration, the Kalamazoo Valley Enforcement Team (KVET), the Western Michigan Enforcement Team (WMET) and the Van Buren County Sheriff's Department has resulted in federal arrests and the largest-ever seizure by the local enforcement teams in the Kalamazoo area of heroin, U.S. Attorney Charles R. Gross announced today. The arrests and seizures were the result of a federal criminal complaint and search warrants authorized by U.S. Magistrate Judge Ellen C. Carmody on September 17, 2008. October 3, 2008, Magistrate Judge Carmody found probable cause and bound the case over for further proceedings after presiding over a preliminary hearing earlier this week.

A 20-page affidavit in support of the complaint and search warrants alleged that Guillermo Samano-Padilla, age 28, of Covert, Michigan and Mexico, and Daniel Solis-Pulido, age 42, also of Covert, Michigan and Mexico, conspired with other persons and each other to distribute and possess with intent to distribute a kilogram or more of heroin as well as five

kilograms or more of cocaine. As a result of the investigation, approximately a half-kilogram of heroin along with some marijuana and crack cocaine were allegedly seized in the course of a traffic stop on August 18, 2008. Then, on September 17, investigators working with an informant allegedly purchased a kilogram of powder cocaine from Solis-Pulido, who was subsequently found with the purchase money in his vehicle. Finally, on September 17, as a result of the search warrants executed on residences in South Haven Township, Michigan, law enforcement officers allegedly seized: approximately half of a kilogram of heroin, approximately three-quarters of a kilogram of cocaine and approximately three kilograms of marijuana along with over \$23,000 in cash, two firearms and two vehicles. Mr. Samano-Padillo and Mr. Solis-Pulido were arrested on the federal complaint.

Mr. Samano-Padillo and Mr. Solis-Pulido have each waived his respective bond hearing and will remain in custody pending the outcome of the federal proceedings. The drug charges alleged in the complaint are punishable by a mandatory minimum of ten years in prison and a maximum of life in prison. The defendants have a right to have a federal grand jury review the allegations against them for purposes of an indictment, and the government has 30 days in which to take the case to a federal grand jury for that purpose. The allegations in the complaint, just like allegations in an indictment, are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.

U.S. Attorney Charles R. Gross commended the joint investigative efforts of the DEA, KVET, WMET and the VanBuren County Sheriff's Office. This case is being prosecuted on behalf of the United States by Assistant U.S. Attorney Brian Lennon.

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